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FOR NEA/ARP, IO/RHS, DRL/MLGA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/06/2017
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [BA](#) [ROW](#) [HUMRIT](#)
SUBJECT: BAHRAIN: USG PRIORITIES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
FOURTH SESSION

REF: STATE 26833

Classified By: DCM Susan L. Ziadeh for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Pol/Econ Chief March 6 delivered reftel demarche concerning USG priorities at the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) Fourth Session to MFA Director for International Organization Affairs Ghassan Shaikho. Shaikho said that Bahrain joined the HRC to uphold human rights worldwide, and it takes this commitment seriously. Bahrain is a close friend and ally of the United States, and the GOB always takes into consideration the views of the United States.

¶2. (C) Shaikho said that he would consult with the Bahraini mission in Geneva on the upcoming session, and he would encourage the Bahraini mission to be in touch with the U.S. mission. He commented that it will be difficult for Bahrain to take a position in the HRC against Sudan, a fellow Arab League member. Arab governments are working with the Sudanese to find a positive solution to the position Sudan is now in, which, he said, has come about because of the Sudanese government's own actions. On Burma, Shaikho stated that Bahrain is far away and does not have strong interests.

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